AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) An isolated gene encoding a protein having activity to synthesize aurones using chalcones as substrates, wherein said gene is obtained from *Antirrhinum Scrophulariales*.

Claims 2-4. (Cancelled).

- Claim 5. (Currently amended) An isolated gene as set forth in claim 1, which encodes an amino acid sequence having a homology of at least 95% 55% relative to the amino acid sequence described in SEQ ID NO:2, and encodes a protein having activity to synthesize aurones using chalcones as substrates.
- Claim 6. (Previously presented) A vector comprising a gene as set forth in claim 1.
- Claim 7. (Previously presented) A host cell transformed by a vector as set forth in claim 6.
- Claim 8. (Previously presented) A host cell as set forth in claim 7, wherein said host cell is a microorganism or animal cell.

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Claim 9. (Previously presented) A host cell as set forth in claim 7, wherein said host cell is a plant cell.

Claims 10-17. (Canceled).

Claim 18. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a protein having activity to synthesize aurones using chalcones as substrates, wherein said nucleic acid is obtained from <u>Antirrhinum Serophulariales</u>.

Claims 19-21. (Canceled).

- Claim 22. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid as set forth in claim 18, which encodes an amino acid sequence having a homology of at least 95% 55% relative to the amino acid sequence described in SEQ ID NO:2, and encodes a protein having activity to synthesize aurones using chalcones as substrates.
- Claim 23. (Previously presented) A vector comprising a nucleic acid as set forth in claim 18.
- Claim 24. (Previously presented) A host cell transformed by a vector as set forth in claim 23.
- Claim 25. (Previously presented) A host cell as set forth in claim 24, wherein said host cell is a microorganism or animal cell.

- Claim 26. (Previously presented) A host cell as set forth in claim 24, wherein said host cell is a plant cell.
- Claim 27. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid obtained from *Antirrhinum majus*, encoding a protein having an activity to synthesize aurones using chalcones as substrates.
- Claim 28. (Previously presented) A vector comprising a nucleic acid as set forth in claim 27.
- Claim 29. (Previously presented) A host cell transformed with a vector as set forth in claim 28.
- Claim 30. (Previously presented) A host cell according to claim 29, wherein said host cell is a microorganism, an animal cell or a plant cell.
- Claim 31. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid encoding an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 2.
- Claim 32. (Previously presented) A vector comprising a nucleic acid as set forth in claim 31.
- Claim 33. (Currently amended) An isolated A host cell transformed with a vector as set forth in claim 32.

- Claim 34. (Currently amended) An isolated A host cell according to claim 33, wherein said host cell is a microorganism, an animal cell or a plant cell.
- Claim 35. (Previously presented) An isolated gene encoding a protein having activity to synthesize aurones using chalcones as substrates, wherein said protein has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.
- Claim 36. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid sequence having the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

Claims 37-43. (Canceled).

- Claim 44. (New) An isolated gene which encodes an amino acid sequence having a homology of at least 95% relative to the amino acid sequence described in SEQ ID NO:2, and encodes a protein having activity to synthesize aurones using chalcones as substrates.
- Claim 45. (New) An isolated nucleic acid which encodes an amino acid sequence having a homoogy of at least 95% relative to the amino acid sequence described in SEQ ID NO:2, and encodes a protein having activity to synthesize aurones using chalcones as substrates.